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Russian Disinformation Dept.

By David Wise
Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON.

The Central Intelligence Agency is circulating to a select group of Congressmen a CIA report describing a Soviet KGB "Department of Disinformation" said to be engaged in an elaborate effort to discredit the CIA and other United States agencies.

According to the report, the KGB, the Soviet secret intelligence apparatus, is directing its campaign against the CIA, "the intelligence community, with particular thrust against the FBI and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," the State Department, the Peace Corps, and the USIA. "The ultimate objective is to isolate and destroy what the KGB designates as 'Glavni Vrag'" (main enemy), the United States said.

The text of the CIA document, obtained by the New York Herald Tribune, reports the. "Department of Disinformation," also known as "Department D," is headed by Gen. Ivan Ivanovich Agayants, a veteran intelligence officer, and employs "an estimated 40 to 50" desk officers and experts in Moscow alone.

The CIA report described Gen. Agayants as "a senior professional intelligence officer with long experience and well developed agents and political contacts in Western Europe, especially in France, where he served under the name of Ivan Ivanovich Avolov."

"The assignment of Agayants to take over the disinformation task indicates the high priority that the then chairman of the Presldium, Nikita Khrushchev, gave to the campaign against Amer-

ican leadership and activity. Chairman Kosygin and First Secretary Breznev have made no changes in that program."

The report added that "Department "D" is still under the Presldium of the Central Committee of the Communist

party, the ruling body of the Soviet Union.

The CIA has been under fire in recent years in Congress and the press, as well as overseas, partly as the result of unsuccessful operations that were widely pub-

licized, such as the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. That failure in 1961 led to a shake-up at the CIA.

The report circulated to senior members of the House and Senate was seen here as an effort to counter some of the attacks made on the agency by describing Soviet efforts to discredit the CIA. More specifically, it appeared aimed at any possible new effort in Congress to establish a joint "watchdog" committee to oversee the CIA.

Recently, there have been new controversies involving the CIA, including one revolving around the disclosure by Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, that an agent of the intelligence agency was arrested five years ago for allegedly attempting to bribe a Singapore security officer.

The State Department first denied, then admitted that Secretary of State Dean Rusk had apologized in writing over "this incident." Mr. Lee also said he tried to get \$33 million in turn for silence about the affair, but claimed he was offered only \$3 million, which he said he turned down as an "insult."

That episode and another recent blow-up involving the CIA in the Dominican Republic led some lawmakers to renew the call for a "watchdog" group in Congress, which the CIA opposes on the ground that secrets would leak out.

According to the 20-page CIA report, which was presented to the key lawmakers at a secret briefing recently, the "Department of Disinformation" was established in 1959 and "now produces between 350 and 400 derogatory items annually."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

1 October 1965

TO:

FROM: John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel
Telephone:

STAT

The Director has asked that I pass
along the attached to you.

John S. Warner

Copy of Information Paper
from Congressional Record of
9/8/65 pgs 6-7

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